

Albany Schoolhouse
Two miles north of Sebetha
Albany, Nemaha County
Kansas

HABS No. KANS-20

HABS
KANS
66-ALB
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Western Office, Division of Design and Construction
450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California

PHOTOGRAPH-DATA BOOK REPORT
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

KANS-20
Page 1

HABS
KANS
66-ALB
1-

ALBANY SCHOOLHOUSE

Albany, Nemaha County, Kansas

ADDRESS: Two miles north of Sabetha, Kansas
OWNER: The Albany Historical Society, Inc., Sabetha, Kansas
OCCUPANT: Vacant
USE: Proposed Historical Museum

Brief Statement The present limestone building of local stone
of Significance: was built at the close of the Civil War in 1866-
1867 by the settlers who came here from New York
State in late 1850.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: The Albany School District built the two-story building with the understanding that the upper floor was to be used for church purposes. The American Congregational Union loaned them \$500 for 5 years at which time the loan was paid off, and in 1871 the upper story was used as an academy and was know as the "Albany Academy".
2. Date of Erection: 1866-1867.
3. Architect: Unknown
4. Original plans, construction, etc.: The dimensional timbers were of native lumber, sawed at a sawmill a

short distance from the school house. Timbers were of cottonwood, wild cherry and walnut. The doors, windows and finishing lumber and brick for chimneys were hauled overland from White Cloud, Kansas.

The beams and rafters were put together with wood pins and are still as originally built.

5. Notes on alterations and additions: In 1930, a cement foundation of between 2 and 3 feet was put on the south and west sides of the building to save any wearing away of the rock foundation. In the 1920's, 4 iron rods - one on each side - were put just above the floor of the second story and put through the rock walls to tie the building together. You can see the two bars at each corner in the pictures.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:

Meeting place for community projects, among them:

1883-1940 annual financial aid and boxes of clothing and food sent to the Christian Orphan's Home at Council Bluffs, Iowa.

During World War I - 1916 - Red Cross activities for benefit of soldiers.

Farm Bureau and Women's Unit meetings.

School and community social events.

C. Sources of Information:

Dr. Emily B. Slosson (Mrs.) wrote an early history Albany and Sabetha.

Mrs. William A. Neiswanger (Lilian), Urbana, Illinois used this as a basis for her research for a Centennial History of the First Congregational Church of Sabetha, Kansas in 1958.

KANS-20

Page 3

Mr. Ralph Tennial published a Nemaha County History in 1916 after much research and also early letters of early settlers. He is deceased but his grandson Ralph Tennial lives in Sabetha, Kansas and publishes the "Sabetha Herald".

Prepared by,

*Mrs. May Wines
Sabetha, Kansas.*

Mrs. May Wines, Vice President
Albany Historical Society, Inc.
September 1965

PART II, ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural interest and merit: Built in 1866-1867. Important as good example of a school built in a Territorial Town of historic interest.
2. Condition of Fabric: Good state of repair.

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 30' x 48'
2. Foundations: Stone masonry, of local limestone. Concrete skirt (added later) on west and south sides of building.
3. Wall construction: Stone Masonry
4. Chimneys: 2 brick chimneys
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Paneled front door with transom and side lights.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Double hung sash - 2 panes each.

6. Roof:
- a. Shape, covering: Hipped. Composition shingles.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Wood cornice
 - c. Dormers, cupolas: Platform with bell on roof ridge.

C. Technical Description of Interior:

- 1. Floor Plans: Entrance hall with classroom on first floor. Meeting room on second.
- 2. Stairway: One. Front part of building to 2nd floor.
- 3. Flooring: $3\frac{1}{2}$ " T&G Pine.
- 4. Wall and ceiling finish: Rock walls with thin coat of plaster. Wood shiplap only in entry way to be replaced by sheet rock.
- 5. Doorways and doors: Four panel.
- 6. Trim: Moulded 6" wood trim.
- 7. Hardware: Standard butt hinges.
- 8. Lighting: Fluorescent fixtures.
- 9. Heating: Wood stove, 1st floor; coal stove, 2nd floor.

D. Site:

General Setting and orientation: In the county of Nemaha, State of Kansas, commencing at a point 215 ft. north from center of Section 25, Twp. 1, Range 14, East 6th P.M., thence running 208 ft north, thence west 423 ft., thence south 208 ft. thence east 423 ft., to the place of beginning; containing approximately 2 acres - more or less.

- 1. Enclosures: None.

KANS-20
Page 5

2. Outbuildings: Pumphouse and cave.
3. Walks: Concrete Sidewalk to road.
4. Landscaping: None

Prepared by,

Albert Ackerman

Mr. Albert Ackerman, President
Albany Historical Society, Inc.

and

*Mrs May Wines
914 Virginia St
Liberal, Kans.*

Mrs. May Wines, Vice, President
Albany Historical Society, Inc.
September 1965

APPROVED:

Charles S. Pope

Charles S. Pope, AIA
Supervising Architect, Historic Structures
Western Office, Design and Construction
National Park Service

DATE: *February 1966*